



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.7 percent for December 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was up two-tenths of a percentage point from the November 2001 rate of 4.5 percent, and up one and six-tenths of a percentage point from the December 2000 rate of 3.1 percent. The number of individuals employed increased from November to December by 900 individuals, while an increase of 400 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 11,400 in November to 11,800 in December. There was a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 1,300 individuals from November to December 2001, and an increase of 10,700 individuals from one year ago. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the December 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

Treasure Valley Table 2: December 2001 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,970	7,640	4.2	174,330
Adams	1,630	240	14.7	1,390
Boise	2,475	115	4.6	2,360
Canyon	69,940	4,190	6.0	65,750
Elmore	9,940	570	5.7	9,370
Gem	6,580	610	9.2	5,970
Owyhee	4,150	176	4.2	3,973
Payette	10,400	810	7.8	9,590
Valley	4,140	415	10.0	3,725
Washington	4,676	351	7.5	4,325
Statewide	692,535	37,990	5.5	654,545

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* remained stable at 232,500 between November and December 2001 and showed an increase of 3,000 jobs since December 2000. Job losses in *Construction & Mining* (700) and *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) outpaced job gains in *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100) to create a net decrease of 700 jobs

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties

	Dec 2001*	Nov 2001	Dec 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,900	250,600	241,200	0.5	4.4
Unemployment	11,800	11,400	7,500	3.5	57.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.7	4.5	3.1		
Total Employment	240,100	239,200	233,700	0.4	2.7
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	252,500	252,700	241,600	-0.1	4.5
Unemployment	12,100	10,900	7,600	11.0	59.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	4.3	3.1		
Total Employment	240,400	241,800	234,000	-0.6	2.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	232,500	232,500	229,500	0.0	1.3
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	52,900	53,600	53,800	-1.3	-1.7
Mining & Construction	17,300	18,000	16,300	-3.9	6.1
Manufacturing	35,600	35,600	37,500	0.0	-5.1
Durable Goods	27,100	27,100	28,900	0.0	-6.2
Lumber & Wood Products	3,100	3,200	3,200	-3.1	-3.1
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,400	2,400	-4.2	-4.2
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	6,400	6,400	8,300	0.0	-22.9
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,000	13,000	12,600	0.0	3.2
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,900	5.9	-5.3
Nondurable Goods	8,500	8,500	8,600	0.0	-1.2
Food Products	5,600	5,600	5,700	0.0	-1.8
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	900	900	900	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	179,600	178,900	175,700	0.4	2.2
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,100	12,200	12,400	-0.8	-2.4
Transportation	6,600	6,700	6,900	-1.5	-4.3
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,500	5,500	5,500	0.0	0.0
Trade	58,500	57,900	58,200	1.0	0.5
Wholesale Trade	13,400	13,300	13,800	0.8	-2.9
Durable Goods	8,100	8,100	8,400	0.0	-3.6
Nondurable Goods	5,300	5,200	5,400	1.9	-1.9
Retail Trade	45,100	44,600	44,400	1.1	1.6
General Merchandise Stores	6,800	6,700	6,300	1.5	7.9
Foods Stores	7,200	7,100	7,900	1.4	-8.9
Eating & Drinking Places	15,600	15,500	14,900	0.6	4.7
Other Retail Trade	15,500	15,300	15,300	1.3	1.3
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,200	11,100	11,200	0.9	0.0
Services	61,700	61,700	59,100	0.0	4.4
Business Services	14,900	14,700	14,900	1.4	0.0
Health Services	19,000	19,000	16,800	0.0	13.1
Hospitals	9,300	9,200	7,700	1.1	20.8
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,700	4,600	4,600	2.2	2.2
Other Services	23,100	23,400	22,800	-1.3	1.3
Government	36,100	36,000	34,800	0.3	3.7
Federal Government	5,300	5,200	5,100	1.9	3.9
State Government	13,200	13,300	13,000	-0.8	1.5
Education	4,700	4,700	4,700	0.0	0.0
Administration	8,500	8,600	8,300	-1.2	2.4
Local Government	17,600	17,500	16,700	0.6	5.4
Education	11,700	11,600	11,100	0.9	5.4
Administration	5,900	5,900	5,600	0.0	5.4

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

month-over-month in *Goods-Producing Industries*. Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 900 jobs with *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,900), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100), *Food & Kindred Products* (100) outpacing job gains in *Construction & Mining* (1,000) and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (400). The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in that industry since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries gained 700 jobs between November and December 2001. Job increases in *Nondurable Goods Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Food Stores* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (100), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Business Services* (200), *Hospitals* (100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (100), *Federal Government* (100), and *Local Government Education* (100) outpaced job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Other Services* (300), and *State Government Administration* (100) to create the net increase in the number of jobs in the Boise City MSA month-over-month. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 3,900 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with *Transportation*, *Durable Goods Trade*, *Nondurable Goods Trade*, and *Food Stores*, the only industries to experience job losses. The most notable job gains over the year took place in *Eating and Drinking Places* (700), *Health Services* (2,200) primarily *Hospitals* (1,600), and *Local Government Education* (600).

SPECIAL TOPIC

Idaho Community Foundation Grants for Southwest Idaho

The Idaho Community Foundation awarded a number of grants totaling \$412,000 to various groups in Southwestern Idaho in January. The groups in southwestern Idaho counties that were awarded some of the grant monies are as follows: Ada County and Elmore County Meals-on Wheels Program, Ada Sheriff's Youth Foundation, Agency for New Americans, Assistance League of Boise, Ballet Idaho, Boise Art Museum, Boise Contemporary Theater, Boise Elementary Spanish, Boise Fire Department, Boise Philharmonic, Bown House Heritage Education Program, Community House, Community Intercultural Center, Discovery Center of Idaho, Dress for Success, Family Advocate Program, Fort Boise Mid High School, Hawthorne Elementary, Idaho Black History Museum, Idaho Children's Arts Network, Idaho Dance Theatre, Youth Programs, Idaho Human Rights Education Center, Idaho Humane Society, Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit, Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Theater for Youth, Jackson Elementary School, K.I.D.S. Services, Learning Lab, Lee David Pesky Center for Learning En-

richment, Mladi Behar-The Bosnian and Herzegovina Cultural Center of Idaho, Neighborhood Housing Services, Opera Idaho, Planned Parenthood of Idaho, Senior Programs of Boise City/Ada County, Silver Sage Girl Scout Council, St. Joseph's School, Star Joint Fire Protection District, State of Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, The Junior League of Boise, United Cerebral Palsy of Idaho, Women's and Children's Alliance, Meadows Valley Public Library, Basin School District #72, Boise County Community Justice Department, Crouch Volunteer Ambulance Service, Horseshoe Bend Area Chamber of Commerce, Idaho City Historical Foundation, Boy Scouts of America (Ore-Ida Council), The Boys and Girls Club of Nampa, Caldwell Senior High School, Canyon County Domestic Violence Task Force, COSSA Pre-School, Jefferson Junior High School, Middleton Public Library, Middleton Rural Fire District, Music Theatre of Idaho, Nampa Shelter Foundation, Northwest Children's Home, Notus Fire Department, Region III Mental Health, Sacajawea Elementary School, St. Clare's Food Pantry at St. Vincent De Paul, Syringa Middle School, The Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho, The Salvation Army, Third District Youth Court, Van Buren Elementary School, Warhawk Air Museum, Western Idaho Training Company (WITCO), Glens Ferry Public Library, Mountain Home Fire Department, Mountain Home Youth Center, South Fork River Association, Pine and Featherville Senior Citizens' Center, Citizens Organization for Revitalization of Emmett (CORE), Emmett High School, Emmett Public Library, Emmett Public School Foundation, Friends of Blazer/Railroad Park, Gem County Ambulance, Gem County Fair Board, Gem County Optimist Club, Gem County Recreation District, Idaho Organic Alliance, Ola District Library, Ola Elementary, Ola Ladies Club, Project Starfish, Sunshine Activity Center, Veterans of the Foreign Wars of the United States-Post 4900, Walter Knox Memorial Hospital, Bruneau American Legion Post #83, Marsing School District #363, Owyhee County Juvenile Probation, Friends of the Payette River Greenway, Idaho Theatre Company, Intermountain Regional Learning Center, McCall Memorial Hospital Foundation, McCall Recreation Department, SISCRA Campground, Snowdon Wildlife Sanctuary, Cambridge Community Clinic, Midvale Community Library, ROSE Advocates, and Weiser School District #431.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- MCMS in Nampa laid off another 120 people in January in response to the transition to Plexus Corp., the new owners. Over the past year, troubles in the high-tech manufacturing sector forced MCMS to lay off nearly 1,000 workers. MCMS still has 460 workers at the Nampa facility. MCMS and Plexus did not comment on the layoffs.

- In December, MicronPC moved approximately 300 workers from Meridian to the company headquarters in Nampa, now almost everyone working for the company works at the Nampa facility. The move helped MicronPC reduce redundancies and focus on improving efficiencies and cost savings. By moving everyone under the same roof, MicronPC plans to save about \$500,000 over the year; this was essential for the company to remain profitable. In January, the company announced its second profitable quarter in nearly two years. The company also laid off an undisclosed number of workers as a continuing effort to right-size the organization.
- In mid-January, Micron Technology filed a document with the SEC to purchase Toshiba's memory chip plant in Virginia for \$250 million and 1.5 million shares of Micron stock. Most analysts consider the transaction a "good deal" for Micron. The sale, if allowed, would give Micron a 600,000-square-foot fabrication plant. If approved, the sale would conclude in summer 2002.
- Crucial Technology, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Micron Technology located in Meridian, announced that it has partnered with 478 Best Buy electronics stores nationwide to put Crucial's products on its shelves. The company offers more than 87,000 upgrades for more than 15,000 types of electronic devices; Best Buy will stock five types of Crucial's most versatile memory upgrades for the most popular computers. The partnership provides Crucial with an additional channel to market to an even broader base of customers. The company's main marketing channel remains through its Crucial Technology Internet site.
- Washington Group International (WGI) was approved for bankruptcy reorganization in late January. Terms of the bankruptcy include a new board of directors of WGI. Three people on the current board will remain on the new board. Of the eight new directors that will be selected, six will be chosen by the company's secured lenders and two will be chosen by the company's unsecured creditors.
- Boise recently established a cultural district that is designed to promote the arts and stimulate economic development in the city. A brochure has been printed that shows areas of "culture" and destinations of at least 20 public art pieces. By summer, a kiosk mapping these locations will be available at the visitors' center near the Boise Centre on the Grove; another kiosk is planned for the corner of Eighth and Idaho Streets. The project was coordinated by the Boise City Arts Commission and was created through a joint effort by the Arts Commission, Capitol City Development Corp, the Downtown Business Association, and the City of Boise.
- Best Buy announced plans to open a facility in Boise in Summer 2002. Best Buy sells consumer electronics, personal computers, entertainment software, and appliances. The store will be located in the space formerly occupied by HomeBase on Franklin Road in Boise. This will be the first Best Buy store in Boise.
- Robert Comstock opened a design studio and store at 405 South Eighth Street, Suite 332, in Boise in late January. The store offers high-end men's sportswear, including shirts, sweaters, jackets, coats, and pants. Although Comstock is known for his leather designs, he also uses cashmere, merino wool, alpaca, denim, angora blends, and other materials. The store is open from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- The Ada County Courthouse held its grand opening in January. The \$62.6 million, five-story, 340,000-square-foot courthouse opened on Front Street in Boise and is part of a 14-acre public/private use area that will be developed into additional housing and retail space. The grand opening celebration included a tour of the building, which features state-of-the-art technology and public art inside. A \$12 million parking garage is adjacent to the building.
- The Eagle River complex retail center, a 150,000-square-foot complex, will open at the corner of Eagle Road and Idaho 44. The mixed-use complex will include two medical buildings, a bank branch, and a municipal park. St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and Washington Trust Bank have already made commitments to occupy areas in the complex.
- Mercy Medical Center started its expansion project in January. The project will expand the pharmacy, expand patient registration areas, and add three emergency examination rooms. Construction should be completed by July 2002. The expansion project is a result of Nampa's population growth.
- Lanny Berg Nissan moved from Caldwell to Nampa and will occupy the former Edmark Chevrolet dealership on the corner of Caldwell Boulevard and Orchard Avenue. The business is moving because there are no expansion opportunities at the current location. The new dealership opened in February, and a grand-opening celebration is scheduled for April 15, 2002.
- The Bruce Mitchell Science and Technology Center opened in Parma in January. The \$1.3 million center will be shared by middle and high schools in the area, and includes biology labs, computer stations, a hardware lab to teach computer assembly, and a lab to analyze DNA samples. The center features digital "smart-boards," which are high-tech blackboards that display text, graphics, video, and traditional handwriting.

- Other economic developments occurring in the Boise City MSA include the opening of Farm & City Supply, Inc. in Nampa; Hostel Boise in Nampa and Blackburn & Jones LLP. Albertson's announced the remodeling of the State Street and Gary Lane store in Boise. St. Joseph's Catholic School in Boise plans a two-story, \$800,000 addition, with the Planning & Zoning Commission hearing scheduled for mid-February. Goodwood Barbecue plans a second restaurant at the Crossroads shopping plaza in Meridian, opening in summer 2002.

Adams County

- The Adams County Aquatic Committee, established by Rosie Abide and Alice Hutchins, has set its first goal—to determine the feasibility of developing, constructing, and maintaining an aquatic center to “meet the stated needs of the general public” in Council. Surveys on the project are available at Shaver's, Buckshot Mary's, Council Valley Market, and the library. The more information that the public provides on the surveys, the more effective the committee will be in determining which direction, if any, the project should take.

Gem County

- The Gem County Chamber of Commerce held its annual Community Auction in January. The event grossed \$5,900 for the Chamber. Nearly 130 people attended the event that was catered by Tee Time Café in Emmett. The money raised will fund community events throughout the year such as the annual Cherry Festival and other community events as well as help fund Chamber office expenses.

Payette County

- The Payette Chamber of Commerce chose Payette Printing as this year's Business of the Year. Payette Printing is owned by Bill and Karen Bommersbach and employs one additional employee. The business serves many areas in the Treasure Valley, from Midvale to Parma.

Valley County

- McCall's annual winter carnival took place between January 25 and February 3, 2002. Large crowds attended the ten-day event that featured snow sculptures, music, a food court, parades, Monte Carlo Casino Night, hockey demonstrations, dances, plays, dog pulls, ATV races, snow sculpting contests, bingo contests, snow shoe golf, beard/hairy/& sexy leg contests, wine festival, a fun run, figure skating exhibitions, and cross country skiing. Area restaurants, stores, and lodging establishments benefited from the influx of tourists in McCall for the annual event.

- The Western Council of Industrial Workers and Cascade officials met in January to discuss the possibility of reopening the Boise Cascade sawmill under new management. In order to reopen the mill, millions of dollars in equipment needs to be purchased and the state and Northern Pacific Railroad need to keep the rail line between Cascade and the Boise valley open. In the January meeting, the group discussed a possible feasibility study that could cost up to \$20,000; an initial \$10,000 study was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The information was presented to the Cascade Chamber of Commerce.
- The Idaho Transportation Department announced the award of \$500,000 to the city of McCall for the four corners project, in early January. The project will include the beautification of all four corners at the intersection of Deinhard Lane and Idaho 55, at the south entrance to McCall. The project will include landscaping, decorative fencing, and pedestrian crosswalks. It requires a local match of \$50,000, which will come from the city of McCall's general fund over the next three years along with donated land from the city, Lumbermen's Building Center, and Village East Plaza. The project is scheduled for completion in 2004.

Washington County

- Quinco Credit Union announced in January that it will open an office in Weiser. March 31, 2002 is the targeted opening date for the new location, but the final date will be determined after a site is chosen in Weiser for the office.

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